AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims replaces all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Original) Emulgator-free microgel dispersed in an aqueous phase, obtainable by

a) producing a polyacrylate (A) in the presence of at least one compound (B) containing a phosphonic acid group, where the polyacrylate (A) has at least one hydroxyl group and at least one carboxyl group;

b) aqueous phase crosslinking of the reaction mixture originating from step a) with an aminoplast resin (C);

c) subsequent emulsion polymerization of the reaction mixture originating from step b) with at least one monomer composition (D) which contains at least one radically polymerizable double bond.

2. (Original) Emulgator-free microgel dispersed in an aqueous phase, obtainable by

a) producing a polyacrylate (A) in the presence of at least one compound (B) containing a phosphonic acid group, where the polyacrylate (A) has at least one hydroxyl group and at least one carboxyl group;

b) aqueous phase crosslinking of the reaction mixture originating from step a) with an aminoplast resin (C);

characterized in that the reaction mixture originating from step b) is not subjected to any subsequent emulsion polymerization.

3. (Original) Microgel from claim 2, wherein the polyacrylate (A) originating from step a) is subjected to emulsion polymerization before step b) with at least one

monomer compound (D) which contains at least one radically polymerizable double bond.

4. (Previously Presented) Microgel of claim 1, wherein the polyacrylate (A) is obtainable by polymerization

of a monomer (i) with at least one polymerizable double bond and at least one hydroxyl group;

of a monomer (ii) with at least one polymerizable double bond and at least one carboxyl group;

of a monomer (iii) without a hydroxyl group and without a carboxyl group with at least one polymerizable double bond.

5. (Cancelled).

6. (Original) Emulgator-free microgel dispersed in an aqueous phase, obtainable by

a) production of a polyacrylate (E) by copolymerization

of a monomer (i) with at least one polymerizable double bond and at least one hydroxyl group;

of a monomer (ii) with at least one polymerizable double bond and at least one carboxyl group;

of a monomer (iv) with at least one polymerizable double bond and with at least one phosphonic acid group

b) aqueous phase crosslinking of the reaction mixture originating from step a) with an aminoplast resin (C);

c) subsequent emulsion polymerization of the reaction mixture originating from step b) with at least one monomer compound (D) which contains at least one radically polymerizable double bond.

7. (Original) Emulgator-free microgel dispersed in an aqueous phase obtainable by

a) producing a polyacrylate (E) by copolymerization

of a monomer (i) with at least one polymerizable double bond and at least one hydroxyl group;

of a monomer (ii) with at least one polymerizable double bond and at least one carboxyl group;

of a monomer (iv) with at least one polymerizable double bond at and at least one phosphonic acid group;

b) aqueous phase crosslinking of the reaction mixture originating from step a) with an aminoplast resin (C);

wherein the reaction mixture originating from step b) does not undergo subsequent emulsion polymerization.

8. (Original) Microgel from claim 7, wherein the polyacrylate (E) originating from step a) is subjected before step b) to emulsion polymerization with at least one monomer compound (D) which contains at least one radically polymerizable double bond.

9. (Previously Presented) Microgel of claim 1, wherein copolymerization is carried out in the presence of an additional monomer (iii) without a hydroxyl group and without a carboxyl group, containing at least one polymerizable double bond.

10. (Previously Presented) Microgel of claim 4, wherein the monomer (i) is selected from the group of hydroxyethyl(meth)acrylate, hydroxypropyl(meth)acrylate, hydroxybutyl(meth)acrylate and ε-caprolactame estered on a hydroxy(meth)acrylate base.

11. (Previously Presented) Microgel of claim 4, wherein the monomer (ii) is selected from the group of acrylic acid and methylacrylic acid.

12. (Previously Presented) Microgel of claim 4, wherein the monomer (iii) is selected from the group of hydroxyl group-free acryl(meth)acrylic acid esters and styrene.

13. (Previously Presented) Microgel of claim 6, wherein the monomer (iv) is vinyl phosphonic acid.

14. (Previously Presented) Microgel of claim 1, wherein the aminoplast resin is a melamine resin.

15. (Previously Presented) Microgel of claim 1, wherein at least one monomer compound (D) has at least one hydroxyl group.

16. (Previously Presented) Microgel of claim 1, wherein emulsion polymerization is carried out in the presence of an additional monomer compound (D), which contains at least one radically polymerizable double bond and no hydroxyl groups.

17. (Previously Presented) Microgel of claim 1, wherein it has an acid number between 10 and 45 mg KOH/g.

18. (Currently Amended) A ~~method comprising preparing a~~ multilayer coating, [[using]] comprising an emulgator-free microgel of claim 1.

19. (Currently Amended) ~~A method in accordance with~~ The multilayer coating of claim 18, wherein the multilayer coating [[is]] contains a basecoat.

20. (Currently Amended) ~~A method according to~~ The multilayer coating of claim 18, wherein the ~~microgel~~ percentage of the microgel, relative to the solids of the coat obtainable therefrom, is between 20 and 85%.